

Serial No. 10/017,475
Confirm. No. 5215

- 2 -

Art Unit 1744

In the Claims

Applicants have submitted a new complete claim set showing marked up claims with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing.

Please cancel claim 28 without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. (Currently amended) A sterilizer/disinfector for sterilizing or disinfecting an object, comprising:

a housing;

a light source disposed within the housing;

a light seal to block light output from the light source from exiting the housing, wherein the object forms part of the light seal; and

an actuator optical device, triggered by detection of completion of the light seal to a certain degree, to enable light to be output from the light source.

2. (Original) The sterilizer/disinfector of claim 1, wherein the light source emits ultraviolet light.

3. (Original) The sterilizer/disinfector of claim 1, wherein the light output has a duration of less than 10 milliseconds.

4. (Original) The sterilizer/disinfector of claim 1, wherein the light source is a flash lamp.

5. (Original) The sterilizer/disinfector of claim 1, wherein the light output is pulsed.

6 - 10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently amended) A sterilizer/disinfector, comprising:
a housing;

Serial No. 10/017,475
Confirm. No. 5215

- 3 -

Art Unit 1744

a flash lamp disposed within the housing; and
one or more vanes ~~pivotaly~~ each attached to the housing at a pivot point and rotatable about the pivot point, for actuating the flash lamp and blocking light emitted by the flash lamp from exiting the housing.

12. (Original) The sterilizer/disinfector of claim 11, further comprising a hinged door at each of an entry point and exit point of the housing.

13 – 17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) A sterilizer/disinfector for sterilizing or disinfecting an object, comprising:
a housing; and
two or more vanes pivotally mounted to the housing;
wherein the vanes may interface to enclose a portion of the object during sterilization or disinfection.

19 – 22. (Cancelled)

23. (Original) A device comprising:
a housing having an opening for at least partially receiving an object;
at least one movable member, attached to the housing, the at least one movable member movable between an open position and a closed position;
an ultraviolet light source within the housing; and
a detector that detects at least one of: (1) a degree of light sealing of the housing caused at least in part by the movable member, (2) the movable member being in the closed position, and (3) an object being located in a certain position at least partially within the housing;
wherein, when the object is placed at least partially within the housing, the movable member is in the closed position, and the detector detects the at least one of (1) a degree of light sealing of the housing caused at least in part by the movable member, (2) the movable member being in the closed position, and (3) an object being located in a certain position at least partially

Serial No. 10/017,475
Confirm. No. 5215

- 4 -

Art Unit 1744

within the housing, then the ultraviolet light source emits ultraviolet radiation to sterilize or disinfect the object.

24. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 23, wherein the movable member automatically moves to the closed position upon placing an object at least partially within the opening of the housing.

25. (Original) A device comprising:
a housing having an opening for at least partially receiving an object;
at least one movable member, attached to the housing, the movable member movable between an open position and a closed position;
an ultraviolet light source within the housing; and
an actuator that prevents the ultraviolet light source from emitting ultraviolet radiation until an object is placed at least partially within the opening of the housing and the movable member is in its closed position.

26. (Currently amended) A sterilizer/disinfector for sterilizing or disinfecting an object, comprising:
a housing;
an ultraviolet flash light source disposed within the housing; and
a lockout mechanism comprising an optical device located within the housing, wherein the lockout mechanism is adapted to prevent light from being output from the ultraviolet flash light source when the mechanism is in a lockout state, unless completion of a light seal to a certain degree has been detected.

27. (Original) The sterilizer/disinfector of claim 26, further comprising a light seal to substantially block light output from the light source from exiting the housing.

28 - 47. (Cancelled)